

anyone else will personify the critical importance this Alliance places on transforming its capabilities for the 21st century. An awesome responsibility. But welcome nevertheless to the NATO family.

**SUPPORT INCREASED
TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT**

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is fortunate to have the leadership and commitment to critical transportation investment in Chairman DON YOUNG, Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, Subcommittee Chairman TOM PETRI, and Subcommittee Ranking Member WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI. As Congress moves toward consideration of the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century, we need to provide the necessary increased investment to meet the growing needs of surface transportation. I am confident that with the strong leadership on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the reauthorization process will provide growth in the surface transportation program in order to ensure safe and efficient surface transportation networks.

Investment in surface transportation is critical to our economy, the environment, and quality of life. Transportation related investment produces new jobs and is directly related economic activity. Investment in efficient transportation networks also relieves and prevents congestion, a serious environmental challenge and costly burden facing regions throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Transportation investment goes beyond moving people and goods and providing fertile ground for economic growth and prosperity. Transportation is about safety and the health of our citizenry, whether they travel on highways, urban arteries, subways, bikes or as pedestrians.

Puerto Rico has tremendous mobility related challenges that we are addressing through an important partnership between the Commonwealth, Congress, and the federal government. While Puerto Rico is a small island only 100 miles by 30 miles in size, our population is nearing 4 million people.

Puerto Rico has one of the highest vehicles per mile of road ratio in the world. Congestion and related economic and environmental problems are a serious challenge facing Puerto Rico. Geographical constraints, a growing population, and economic growth all necessitate significant continued transportation investment.

Puerto Rico is nearing the completion of Phase 1 of the New Start Tren Urbano project in metropolitan San Juan. I will seek authorization of Phase 2 of this important project, for transportation that will enable necessary continued growth in the program so that safe, efficient intermodal networks result throughout.

Through adequate investment, we can build today to meet the increasing demands of the future. Investment in transportation infrastructure produces more than highways, new start light rail projects, or high-speed ferryboats. Transportation investment is also about safety, economic development and quality of life. I urge my colleagues to support the leadership

of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who will fight for necessary investment in transportation to meet the growing needs of tomorrow by necessary investment today.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PATRICK

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan, an outstanding citizen and one of our state's enduring treasures, Robert Patrick. I am proud to recognize Mr. Patrick in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions and dedicated service to the people of Arkansas County and the nation.

Mr. Patrick was born and raised in DeWitt, which is located in the same county where I was raised. While he was still a teenager, Mr. Patrick left the small community where he grew up to serve his country in the United States Navy. After returning home from his distinguished military service, Mr. Patrick married his lovely wife Doris, a fellow Arkansas County native.

Mr. Patrick built a successful career as an energetic and successful salesman traveling the country to make a living and support his family. He, Doris and their two children, Pam and Kevin, lived in locales as varied as California, Missouri and even Connecticut, where the Patrick family owned and operated a sports and hobby shop.

As Mr. Patrick neared retirement age, he and Doris decided to move back to her hometown, St. Charles, where his dedication to community service took root. Just two years after moving to St. Charles, Mr. Patrick was elected mayor, and it seems like he hasn't rested since.

Personally, I think of him as the consummate utility man—and not because he has worked tirelessly to upgrade the natural gas, water and sewer infrastructure in St. Charles. Rather, just like a good utility player on a baseball team that's willing to play any position in the field to help his team, Mr. Patrick has been willing to do anything to improve his town. He has done everything from securing a full-time police officer for St. Charles to erecting the city's annual Christmas light display.

Mr. Patrick embodies everything that's wonderful about living in small town America. He has generously shared his time and talent with the citizens of Arkansas County and it's a better place to live because of him. On behalf of Congress, I salute Mayor Robert Patrick of St. Charles, and thank him for his tireless service to his community, his state and his nation.

**HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MAJOR GARY L. BERGOSH**

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Gary Bergosh and celebrate his safe return home from active duty in Operations Enduring Freedom and

Iraqi Freedom. Gary is the ultimate example of a citizen soldier by serving his country for four years of active duty in the Marine Corps Reserves and the state of Florida for the past ten years practicing law.

Gary was raised in a Navy family and attended elementary, middle and high school in Pensacola, Florida. Gary attended Pensacola Junior College and graduated from The University of West Florida. Shortly after graduation, Gary attended Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

Gary attended law school at the University of Memphis while serving in the Marine Corps reserves. Upon completion, Gary entered active duty with the Marine Corps and served three years in Okinawa, Japan as a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

After leaving active duty with the Marine Corps, Gary decided to return home to Pensacola and became a prosecutor for the State Attorney's office.

Gary is currently a senior attorney for the Federal Government, a Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, and in November of 2000 was appointed by Florida Governor Jeb Bush to serve as a member of the Escambia County School Board.

Gary's Marine Corps unit, the 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, was activated on January 27, 2003 to fight the nation's war against terrorism.

Gary served as the Battalion's Executive Officer in Kuwait and Iraq during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Gary returned with his Battalion to the United States on June 6, 2003. Gary will be demobilized from active duty on September 1, 2003.

While at the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, Gary married the former Carissa Borders, a native of Pensacola. Gary and Carissa are currently the proud parents of Alexander. The Bergosh family are active members of their church and community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Major Gary Bergosh for the example he has set in his community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for Northwest Florida and this great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably detained and missed votes on the following measures:

1. H. Res. 264—Expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck Algeria on May 21, 2003 (#297). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

2. H. Res. 177—Commending the people of the Republic of Kenya for conducting free and fair elections, for the peaceful and orderly transfer of power in their government, and for the continued success of democracy in their nation since that transition (#298). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

3. H. Con. Res. 209—Commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia (#299). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."